

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-21 are currently pending in the application. No amendment of the claims has been made.

Claims 1-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by O'Callaghan (U.S. Pub. No. 20004/0211838). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons set forth below.

Prior to addressing the instant rejection, a brief description of the inventive concept is considered warranted. The instant inventors observed that in many private and postal carrier distribution systems, a number of issues arise with respect to the ability of the sender of an item to track the item within the carrier's system. For example, since carriers typically track the item using a unique carrier assigned number that is applied by the carrier to the item, the sender must have some type of upfront communication with the carrier to obtain the unique carrier assigned number to permit inquiries as to the tracking status of the item. Thus the sender must physically bring the item to the carrier, which may take a great deal of time, or such unique numbers can be downloaded from the carrier online. However, while the online system helps with the time problem it creates another problem for the carrier in that the carrier cannot be sure that the unique carrier generated number was affixed to a specific item.

The instant inventors solved the above problem by using two unique identifiers: one created by the sender and the other created by the carrier. A user generates the unique sender identifier during the creation of the mailpiece and submits it into the

carrier distribution system, together with the item (i.e. mailpiece) without knowing anything else about the internal workings of the carrier's tracking system. The carrier having knowledge of the sender's unique identifier can then associate the sender's unique identifier with a unique identifier created by the carrier that the carrier uses to track the item. Thus, when a sender wishes to check on the tracking status of their item, they only need to provide the sender's unique identifier to the carrier and they don't need to know anything about the carrier's unique identifier. The carrier, via the created association between the sender's unique identifier and the carrier's unique identifier, can identify the mailpiece and report the tracking status back to the sender. This system allows for a sender to, for example, drop a mailpiece into a carrier's drop box with a sender's unique identifier located thereon and still be able to track the mailpiece without receiving any unique identifier tracking information from the carrier.

O'Callaghan does not teach or suggest the claimed dual use of the unique sender generated identifier and the unique carrier generated identifier as recited in each of independent claims 1 and 11. O'Callaghan is not even directed to the tracking of mailpieces through a carrier distribution system. Instead, O'Callaghan describes the system shown in Figure 2 which verifies whether a batch of mail follows a pre-established set of rules to qualify for bulk mailing discounts (Paragraphs 0005, 0038, claim 1).

As discussed, in paragraph 0036 of O'Callaghan, it is clear that the O'Callaghan system is used by the **carrier** to verify that information provided by the mailer is correct. It is stated that:

The system identifies and verifies the accuracy of the printed barcode against the results of an address search within its address database, and verifies that such aspects of the mail as postage paid, weight, etc., are

consistent with the information provided by the mailer.

Moreover, the apparatus of O'Callaghan only teaches that the carrier applies a single ID number to the mailpiece so that information about the individual mailpiece can be maintained in a database for future reference. There is simply no teaching or suggestion in O'Callaghan of the claimed second unique identifier generated by the sender, its relationship and association to a unique carrier generated identifier, and its use by a sender in tracking a mailpiece without the sender having knowledge of the unique carrier generated identifier.

In view of the above it is submitted that independent claims 1 and 11 are neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of O'Callaghan. Additionally claims 2-10 and 12-21 are considered patentable based on their respective dependencies from claims 1 and 11 as well as for the specified elements in each of these claims which are neither taught nor suggested by O'Callaghan.

Applicants would also like to point out to the Examiner that the copy of the PTO-892 that Applicants received did not list the O'Callaghan reference. Further, Applicants did not receive initialed copies of the PTO-1449 forms that accompanied Information Disclosure Statements (IDS') respectively filed on October 01, 2001 and October 05, 2001. Applicants request that the examiner include with the next office action initialed copies of the PTO-1449 forms submitted with these IDS'. Copies of the IDS' together with their respective PTO receipt cards is attached herewith as enclosures 1 and 2.

It is submitted that the application stands in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejection and an early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited. If however, the

Appln. No.: 09/927,963
Amdt. Dated August 9, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated April 12, 2005

examiner has any additional questions, please contact the undersigned at the number below.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of this application are now in a condition for allowance and favorable action thereon is requested.

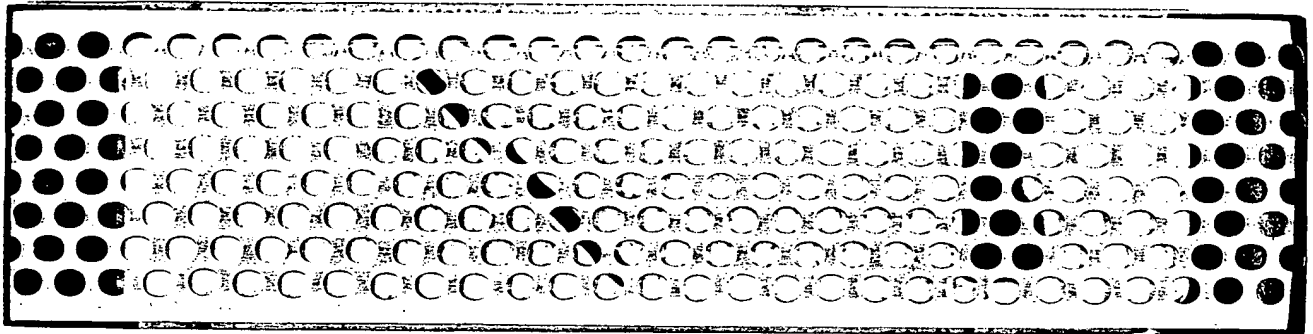
Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Shapiro', is written over a horizontal line.

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Attorney of Record
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Shelton, CT 06484-8000

ENCLOSURE 1



Honorable Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

F-260
SJS/asa
10/1/01

Sir:

Kindly acknowledge receipt of the following:

Information Disclosure Statement, plus one copy of each reference in
Patent Application Titled: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
TRACKING MAIL ITEMS THROUGH A CARRIER DISTRIBUTION**,

Inventor: Leon A. Pintsov et al.

S.N.: 09/927,963, Filed: August 10, 2001

Honorable Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

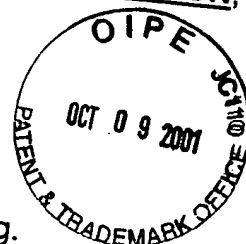
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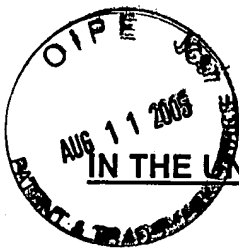
F-260
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S.N.: 09/927,963, Filed: August 10, 2001

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:)
Leon A. Pintsov et al.) Attorney Docket No.: F-260
Serial No.: 09/927,963) Group Art Unit: 2161
Filed: August 10, 2001) Date: October 1, 2001

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TRACKING MAIL ITEMS THROUGH
A CARRIER DISTRIBUTION

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants submit herewith patents, publications or other information of which they are aware, which they believe may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR 1.56.

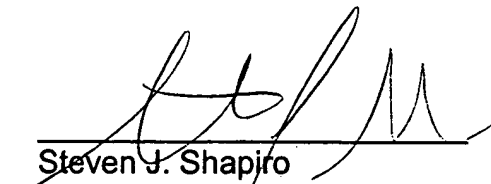
While this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to herein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists.

A list of the patent(s) and/or publication(s) is set forth on the attached Form PTO-1449 (Modified).

A copy of each of the items on PTO-1449 (Modified) is supplied herewith.

Respectfully submitted,


Steven J. Shapiro
Reg. No. 35,677
Attorney of Record
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Shelton, CT 06484-8000

Plus attachments: Form PTO-1449 (Modified)
One copy of each of the references

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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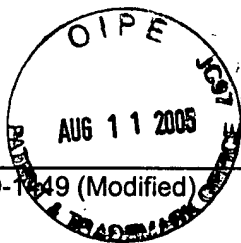
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On October 1, 2001
Date of Deposit

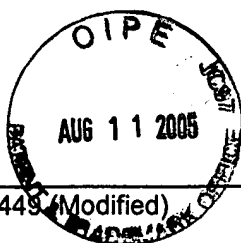

Signature

Steven J. Shapiro
Name of Registered Rep.

October 1, 2001
Date

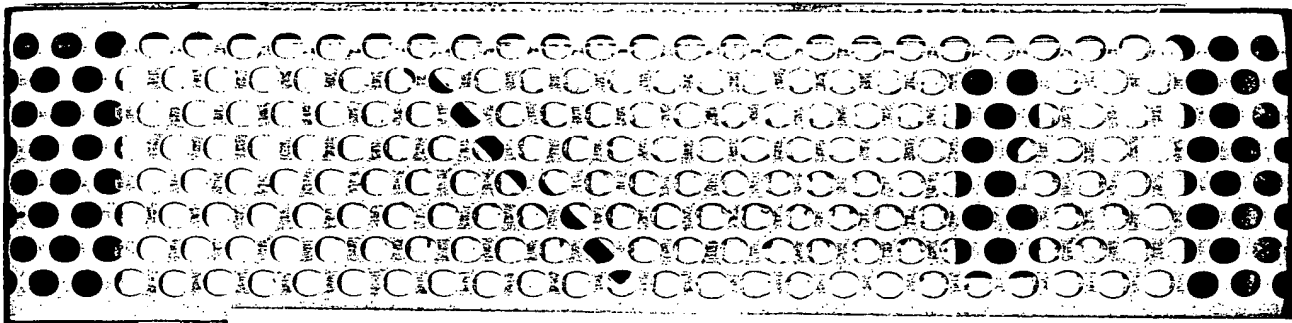


FORM PTO-1049 (Modified)				Atty. Docket Number F-260		Serial No. 09/927,963	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Continued on page 4)				Applicant Leon A. Pintsov et al.			
				Filing Date August 10, 2001		Group 2161	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	4,106,060	8/8/78	Chapman, Jr.	358	256	12/15/75
	AB	5,008,827	4/16/91	Sansone et al.	364	464.02	12/16/88
	AC	5,058,008	10/15/91	Schumacher	364	401	10/3/89
	AD	5,388,049	2/7/95	Sansone et al.	364	464.02	8/11/93
	AE	5,612,884	3/18/97	Haines	364	464.13	10/4/94
	AF	5,612,889	3/18/97	Pintsov et al.	364	478.14	10/4/94
	AG	5,648,916	7/15/97	Manduley	364	514 A	8/10/95
	AH	5,699,258	12/16/97	Thiel	364	464.19	6/7/95
	AI	5,712,712	1/27/98	Sayward	358	403	6/1/95
	AJ	5,726,894	3/10/98	Sansone	364	464.18	12/21/95
	AK	5,737,729	4/7/98	Denman	705	401	6/4/96
	AL	5,768,132	6/16/98	Cordery et al.	364	464.2	6/17/96
	AM	5,794,789	8/18/98	Payson et al.	209	549	12/13/95
	AN	5,805,810	9/8/1998	Maxwell	395	200.36	4/27/95
	AO	5,826,034	10/20/98	Albal	395	200.69	8/9/96
	AP	5,859,967	1/12/99	Kaufeld et al.	395	186	7/9/96
	AQ	5,875,302	2/23/99	Obhan	395	200.55	5/6/97
	AR	5,892,909	4/6/99	Grasso et al.	395	200.31	1/31/97
	AS	5,918,220	6/29/99	Sansone et al.	705	408	12/24/96
	AT	5,936,865	8/10/99	Pintsov et al.	364	478.14	9/16/96
	AU	5,978,781	11/2/99	Sansone	705	408	5/8/97
	AV	6,018,774	6/25/00	Mayle et al.	709	250	7/3/97
	AW	6,038,601	3/14/00	Lambert et al.	709	226	7/21/97
	AX	6,047,264	4/4/00	Fisher et al.	705	26	10/8/96



FORM PTO-1449 (Modified) INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Continued from page 3)				Atty. Docket Number F-260		Serial No. 09/927,963	
				Applicant Leon A. Pintsov et al.			
				Filing Date August 10, 2001		Group 2161	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AY	6,047,273	4/4/00	Vaghi	705	410	8/4/98
	AZ	6,052,671	4/18/00	Crooks et al.	705	34	4/6/99
	AZ1	6,072,862	6/6/00	Srinivasan	379	100.08	7/2/96
	AZ2	6,216,127B1	4/10/01	Gans et al.	707	10	9/16/98
	AZ3	6,229,884B1	5/8/01	Toyoda et al.	379	100.08	12/14/98
	AZ4	6,233,317B1	5/15/01	Homan et al.	379	88.05	12/11/97
	AZ5	6,233,318B1	5/15/01	Picard et al.	379	88.17	11/5/96
FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED PATENT APPLICATION DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY OR PATENT OFFICE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION
	AL	WO 99/21330	Apr 29, 1999	PCT	H04L	12/58	No
	AM						
	AN						
	AO						
	AP						
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)							
	AR						
	AS						
	AT						
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance <u>and</u> not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.							

Enclosure 2



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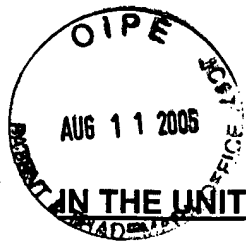
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:)
Leon A. Pintsov et al.) Attorney Docket No.: F-260
Serial No.: 09/927,963) Group Art Unit: 2161
Filed: August 10, 2001) Date: October 5, 2001

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TRACKING MAIL ITEMS THROUGH
A CARRIER DISTRIBUTION

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER CFR 1.97(c)(1)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants submit herewith patents, publications or other information of which they are aware, which they believe may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR 1.56.

While this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to herein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(e)(2), no item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the statement after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the

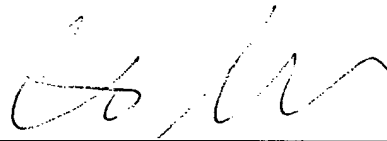
information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

A list of the patent(s) and/or publication(s) is set forth on the attached Form PTO-1449 (Modified).

A copy of each of the items on PTO-1449 (Modified) is supplied herewith.

Please charge any fee required or credit any excess fee paid to Deposit Account Number **16-1885**.

Respectfully submitted,



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Plus attachments: Form PTO-1449 (Modified)
One copy of each of the references



FORM PTO-1449 (Modified)

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT
BY APPLICANT**Atty. Docket Number
F-260Serial No.
09/927,963Applicant
Leon A. Pintsov et al.Filing Date
August 10, 2001Group
2161**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	6,289,323B1	9/11/01	Gordon et al.	705	40	6/18/99
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
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FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED PATENT APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY OR PATENT OFFICE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION
	AL						
	AM						
	AN						
	AO						
	AP						

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

	AR	
	AS	
	AT	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.